

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An information processing method for storing a plurality of files having both content data and metadata related to the content data into a storage medium, comprising:

a reading step of reading a file;

a determining step of determining whether the read file includes metadata;

a separating step of separating the read file into metadata and content data if it is determined in the determining step that the read file includes metadata;

a first storage step of storing said metadata of the read file into a first block storage area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files, on said storage medium;

a second storage step of storing content data of the read file related to said metadata of the read file into a second block storage area for storing content data, other than said first block storage area, on said storage medium; and

a third storage step of storing link information that links said metadata of the ~~plurality of files~~ read file stored in said first block storage area with said content data of the ~~plurality of files~~ read file stored in said second block storage area;

~~wherein at third storage step, each of said link information is stored into an area adjacent to an area where corresponding metadata is stored.~~

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said link information is described as a path and a file name of said content data.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said link information is a head sector number of an area where said content data is stored.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising a registration step of registering link information, that links said metadata stored in said first block storage area with said content data stored in said second block storage area, in a database.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a magneto-optic disk, and wherein an inner radial side of said magneto-optic disk is allocated as said first block storage area.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first block storage area is allocated by generating an area file having a size the same as that of said first block storage area and holding the file on said storage medium.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein at said first storage step, said area file is deleted, then said metadata is stored from a start position of an area where said file has been stored, and a remaining area of said first block storage area following storage of said metadata is held again as an area file.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first storage area is allocated in a directory where said content data is stored.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first storage

area is allocated in a directory different from a directory where said content data is stored.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein at said first storage step, an area necessary for storing each metadata is located in the first block storage area.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata includes description of information specifying related content data.

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata is described in a predetermined data description language.

Claim 18 (Original): The method according to claim 17, wherein said predetermined data description language is any one of XML (Extensible Markup Language), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) and TIFF (Tagged Image File Format).

Claim 19 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said metadata abides by the DIG35 standard.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said content data is at least one of still image data, video data, sound data and music data.

Claim 21 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium is any one of a magneto-optic disk, a floppy disk, a memory card and a hard disk.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): An information processing apparatus for storing a plurality of files having both content data and metadata related to the content data into a storage medium, comprising:

reading means for reading a file;

determining means for determining whether the read file includes metadata;

separating means for separating the read file into metadata and content data if it is determined by said determining means that the read file includes metadata;

first storage means for storing said metadata of the read file into a first block storage area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files on said storage medium;

second storage means for storing content data of the read file related to said metadata of the read file into a second block storage area for storing content data, other than said first block storage area, on said storage medium; and

third storage means for storing link information that links said metadata of the ~~plurality of files~~ read file stored in said first block storage area with said content data of the ~~plurality of files~~ read file stored in said second block storage area;

~~wherein said third storage means stores each of said link information into an area adjacent to an area where corresponding metadata is stored.~~

Claims 23-24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said link information is described as a path and a file name of said content data.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said link information is a head sector number of an area where said content data is stored.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising registration means for registering link information, that links said metadata stored in said first block storage area with said content data stored in said second block storage area, in a database.

Claims 28-30 (Cancelled)

Claim 31 (Currently amended): The apparatus according to claim + 22, wherein said storage medium is a magneto-optic disk, and wherein an inner radial side of said magneto-optic disk is allocated as said first block storage area.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said first block storage area is allocated by generating an area file having a size the same as that of said first block storage area and holding the file on said storage medium.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said first storage means deletes said area file, then stores said metadata from a start position of an area where said file has been stored, and again holds a remaining area of said first block storage area following storage of said metadata as an area file.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said first block storage area is allocated in a directory where said content data is stored.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said first block storage area is allocated in a directory different from a directory where said content data is stored.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein an area necessary for storing each metadata is located in the first block storage area.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said metadata includes description of information specifying related content data.

Claim 38 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said metadata is described in a predetermined data description language.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A control program for a computer to execute an information

processing method for storing a plurality of files having both content data and metadata related to the content data into a storage medium, wherein said information processing method ~~comprising~~ comprises:

a reading step of reading a file;

a determining step of determining whether the read file includes metadata;

a separating step of separating the read file into metadata and content data if it is determined in the determining step that the read file includes metadata;

a first storage step of storing said metadata of the read file into a first block storage area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files, on said storage medium;

a second storage step of storing content data of the read file related to said metadata of the read file into a second block storage area for storing content data, other than said first block storage area, on said storage medium; and

a third storage step of storing link information that links said metadata of the ~~plurality of files~~ read file stored in said first block storage area with said content data of the ~~plurality of files~~ read file stored in said second block storage area;

~~wherein at third storage step, each of said link information is stored into an area adjacent to an area where corresponding metadata is stored.~~

Claims 40-43 (Cancelled).

Claim 44 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said link information is stored into an area adjacent to corresponding metadata, at the third storage step.

Claim 45 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said link information

is stored as a part of said metadata at the third storage step.

Claim 46 (New): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said third storage means stores each of said link information into an area adjacent to corresponding metadata.

Claim 47 (New): The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein each of said link information is stored as a part of said metadata by the third storage means.

Claim 48 (New): An information processing apparatus for storing a plurality of files having both content data and metadata related to the content data into a storage medium, comprising:

a reading unit adapted to read a file;

a processing unit adapted to separating the read file into metadata and content data in case that the read file includes the metadata; and

a storage unit adapted to store the metadata of the read file into a first block area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of data files, to store the content data of the read file related to the metadata of the read file into a second block storage area for storing content data of the plurality of files, and to store link information that links the metadata of the read file with the content data of the read file, on the storage medium.

Claim 49 (New): An information processing method for accessing desired content data by reading metadata of a plurality of files on a storage medium that has a first block storage area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files and a second block storage area for storing content data of the plurality of data files, comprising the steps of:

reading step of reading the metadata of the plurality of files, from the first block storage

area; and

extracting step of extracting desired content data from the second block storage area, that corresponds to metadata selected from the read metadata of the plurality of files, on the basis of link information stored in association with the selected metadata, that links the selected metadata with the desired content data corresponding to the metadata.

Claim 50 (New): An information processing apparatus for accessing desired content data by reading metadata of a plurality of files on a storage medium that has a first block storage area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files and a second block storage area for storing content data of the plurality of data files, comprising:

a reading unit adapted to read the metadata of the plurality of files, from the first block storage area; and

a processing unit adapted to extract desired content data from the second block storage area, that corresponds to metadata selected from the read metadata of the plurality of files, on the basis of link information stored in association with the selected metadata, that links the selected metadata with the desired content data corresponding to the metadata.

Claim 51 (New): A control program for a computer to execute an information processing method for accessing desired content data by reading metadata of a plurality of files on a storage medium that has a first block storage area that is a predetermined continuous area capable of storing metadata of the plurality of files and a second block storage area for storing content data of the plurality of data files, wherein the image processing method comprises:

a reading step of reading the metadata of the plurality of files, from the first block

storage area; and

an extracting step of extracting desired content data from the second block storage area, that corresponds to metadata selected from the read metadata of the plurality of files, on the basis of link information stored in association with the selected metadata, that links the selected metadata with the desired content data corresponding to the metadata.